

Purpose

This policy outlines Healthway's approach to providing funding to religious organisations or for activities that are of a religious nature.

Background

Healthway is the only State Government agency dedicated to health promotion and primary prevention efforts in Western Australia. Healthway partners with arts, sports, racing and community organisations, to fund programs that encourage good health now and into the future for all Western Australians. Its grant funding is provided under an unbiased and impartial approach, independent of religious agendas of any type.

Policy approach

Requests from a religious organisation or group seeking funding for a project that is considered religious in nature will not be considered, if any of the following applies:

- The organisation or group does not meet the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion in line with Government policies, practices and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Funding is sought for a project or activity considered to be unsuitable for the promotion of a health message or will not clearly achieve Healthway's health promotion objectives.
- The project or activity for which funding is sought is aimed at recruiting people to a religion or is evangelical in nature, such as involving the advancement or promotion of a particular religion or religious outlook.
- The project or activity does not comply with all other standard eligibility requirements of Healthway funding.

A project exclusive to one religion or religious outlook may be considered for Healthway funding if there is a strong rationale, supported by sound health promotion evidence, why the health promotion activity will be more effective if it is exclusive to that group.

Definitions

Religion – A particular system of faith or worship.

More information: healthway@healthway.wa.gov.au

Last update: January 2025

Review: This policy will be reviewed in January 2026